

DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING

Iraqis Entertain;
Koos Say Farewell

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By SELWA ROOSEVELT

Diplomats went about their usual business of official parties last night as one more hectic day in a party-filled week came to an end.

The two big diplomatic parties last night were given by the Ambassador of Iraq and Mme. Shabandar, celebrating their national holiday, and by the retiring Chinese Ambassador and Mme. Wellington Koo, to say good-bye.

The Iraqi party, marking the twenty-first birthday celebration of His Majesty King Faisal II, was a perfect example of how a reception for 500 people, with dinner served as well, can be done comfortably and graciously.

The Ambassador and his attractive, red-haired wife received at the entrance to the East Room of the Mayflower Hotel. From there guests went into the long room with its gray and gold decor where small tables were arranged with canapés and a large, 40-foot buffet in the center of the room was heaped with dinner delicacies. On the balcony overlooking the room, Sidney's orchestra played throughout the evening. There were several bars and a small fountain bubbled forth a pretty pink punch.

For the hundreds who stayed for dinner, small tables of four were arranged all around the room, so there was never that problem of balancing one's plate, cigarette, drink and fork!

The Ambassador, who has been accredited to Washington for 2½ years, was not here for last year's celebration, as he was home for 10 months as foreign minister negotiating the Baghdad Pact.

This pact, which includes Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan and Great Britain, places Iraq firmly on the side of the West in the anti-Communist struggle.

"We do not believe in neutralism," the Ambassador explained last night. "It's exactly what the Communists would like to see everywhere. We are with the West since most of our troubles are caused by the West. But we want to solve them with the West as their partners, not in a negative and suspicious atmosphere."

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

No Soviets Attend

There were no members of the Soviet Embassy at last night's party, as Iraq and Russia have temporarily "suspended" relations. This was because the Soviets were using their legation in Baghdad to distribute Communist propaganda and other such activities, Ambassador Shabandar said.

"We have nothing against the Russian people," the Ambassador explained. "And we are quite ready to resume relations with Russia if they cease interfering in our local affairs. We are only against the spread of communism."

Capitol Hill was well represented at the Iraq party—Senator Green, Senator and Mrs. Dirksen, and Senator and Mrs. Beall, Representatives Frances Bolton, William Bray,

Charles Brownson, Edward Miller, Thor Tollefson, Ross Adair, Brooks Hays, and Bryan Dorn, with his pretty brunette wife who was formerly a newspaperwoman.

From diplomatic circles were the British Ambassador and Lady Makins, France's Ambassador Couve de Murville, Ambassador Win of Burma, Egyptian Ambassador and Mme. Hussein, Ambassador Al-Khayyal of Saudi Arabia, Ambassador Rifai of Jordan, Ambassador Zeineddine of Syria, Ambassador Khoury of Lebanon, the Ambassador of Iran and Mme. Amini, Ambassador Campa of Cuba, Minister and Signora Ortona of Italy, and Minister Atal of India, who leaves Washington next week.

Mrs. George Allen, wife of the Assistant Secretary of State, was there, as were United States Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, George Wadsworth, now home on consultation; Mrs. Perle Mesta, Chief of Protocol and Mrs. Simmons, the Frazier Wilkins, Edgar Morris, Mr. Kermit Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Harris, Mr. William Sands and the Stephen Dorsey.

At Chinese Embassy

The Koos' farewell party was a sad one indeed, for the Chinese diplomat and his wife are leaving Washington after 10 years here. And he is retiring from diplomacy after 44 years on the international scene.

Ambassador Koo was also Minister to Washington during World War I and played an important role in allying the Chinese on the side of the United States during that conflict.

Most of his life has been spent away from China, except when he served as Foreign Minister, but he has always been very close to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek.

"It is sad leaving all my friends," said Mme. Koo. "But after all I am not going far away, so I hope to see them again often."

Mme. Koo left this morning for New York, where she has an apartment. The Ambassador will follow in a few days and Minister Tan will take over as Charge d'Affaires until the new Ambassador arrives around May 20.

Among the first to say farewell were the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Mme. Munthe de Morgenstierne, followed by Mme. Carlos Romulo, Admiral and Mrs. Kincaid, the Austrian Ambassador and Mme. Gruber, the Ambassador of the Union of South Africa and Mrs. Holloway, Mme. Couve de Murville, wife of the French Ambassador, and Mr. Robert Woods Bliss.

District Judge Alexander Holtzoff, who was a classmate of Dr. Koo at Columbia University, class of 1908, came by, as did Mrs. John Simmons, Mrs. James L. Houghteling, Mr. William Randolph Hearst, in town for the day; Mr. Charles Dewey, Mrs. Mesta, Col. Robert Guggenheim, Mrs. Leslie Biddle, Senator and Mrs. Alexander Smith, Senator George Aiken and Admiral